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LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVINCE OF EAST TIMOR

1. Since the people of East Timor exercised their right to self-determination and opted for integration with Indonesia on 17 July 1976 in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and 2625 (XXV), the Indonesian Government, including the provincial Government of East Timor, has expended concerted and continuous efforts directed towards the accelerated development in East Timor economically, politically, socially as well as culturally. These development efforts have as their primary goal, the welfare of the people of East Timor which for over four hundred years had been neglected by the colonial power, the restoration of their dignity and human rights as well as their political and cultural rights.

2. National budget allocated by the Indonesian Government for the development of East Timor for the fiscal year 1984/1985 amounts to some US$ 46 million. Such an annual budget allocation per-capita constitutes the largest among all of the provinces of Indonesia. Infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, religious life, social welfare, public housing and communications remain to be the priorities of the development of East Timor. By March 1984, 2.957 km of roads have been built and some 1.000 m of bridges have been constructed. As a result, economic activities such as trade have increased considerably and the administration of the provincial Government of East Timor has become more efficient and effective throughout East Timor. Further improvements of sea and air communications have also enabled East Timor to end its isolation.

3. Agricultural development is concentrated on food crops farming, plantation, livestock farming and fisheries. In the Fourth PELITA

(Fourth Five Year Plan 1984 - 1989), agricultural development especially efforts to increase food production consisting of rice, second crops and horticulture will be continued by means of intensification, rehabilitation, extensification and diversification efforts. It is expected that by 1990, East Timor will not only be self-sufficient in food crops but will eventually become an exporter of a small surplus.

4. In the field of public health, East Timor now has a higher ratio of doctors to population than any of the other Indonesian Provinces (i.e. 1 : 7.000) and it has a rapidly expanding network of health centres. At present there are 28 health centres with 101 sub-stations. There are now three public hospitals as against only one in the colonial times. Additionally, there are two military hospitals, at least one of which will eventually become a public hospital. The incidence of the most serious disease, malaria, suffered by almost 11% of the East Timor population during the colonial period has been considerably reduced.

5. Illiteracy has been reduced from 85% during the colonial period to 65% now and there are to-day nearly four times as many schools as in 1977. In 1983 a total of 90.000 children were enrolled in schools as compared with 20.000 in 1979. There are 400 young East Timorese enrolled in universities and other institutions in other parts of Indonesia being trained at government expense. A serious problem encountered in the field of education has been the lack of sufficient numbers of teachers. However, this is being overcome by training East Timorese as Primary and Secondary School teachers and by providing inducements to teachers from other parts of Indonesia to transfer to East Timor.

6. In the development efforts, the Indonesian Government including the local government of East Timor Province, has always recognized the need for maintaining and nurturing the cultural heritage and the religious life of the East Timorese. While the Indonesian language as

the national language is being taught at schools, the local language, Tetum, spoken also in West Timor, remains in use. Traditional arts and culture of East Timorese have enriched further the Indonesian culture comprising of hundreds of regional arts and cultures. It is the established policy of the Indonesian Government to preserve and develop the cultural heritage of each ethnic group, including that in East Timor.

7.. Religious freedom for the people of East Timor is not only guaranteed by the State Philosophy, the Pancasila and the Constitution. It is also the commitment of the Indonesian Government to ensure that all East Timorese can practice their respective religions without restrictions or discrimination, whether they are Catholics, Protestants, Muslims or Hindus. The Indonesian Government has allocated special budget to promote religious teachings through educational media such as Elementary and Secondary Schools and to grant scholarships for those who wish to further their studies in Catholic religion in other parts of Indonesia and to build houses of worship. The Indonesian Government has also promoted cooperation between the Apostolic Administrator in Dili and the Bishops' Conference of Indonesia. In separate statements to the press, the Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Bishops' Conference of Indonesia said that the Government had never hindered such cooperation. On the contrary, the Indonesian Government had facilitated assistance by the Bishops' Conference to the people of East Timor in the field of education, vocational training and health services. The Secretary-General of the Bishops' Conference also stated that financial assistance received from churches in different countries for East Timor were being channeled through the Bishops' Conference.

8. During the Fourth PELITA, the Indonesian Government will make further efforts to enhance religious life by among others distributing holy books of different religions, giving assistance to build or rehabilitate 750 places of worship, about 50 marriage halls, marriage

councils and expansion of a number of court halls of religious courts and offices for religious affairs in sub-districts, districts and municipalities and regions.

9. The primary objectives of the development efforts referred to in paragraph 1 have always guided the government apparatus in implementing development plans as well as in dealing with law enforcement in East Timor. Due process of law is guaranteed, even for the remnants of FRETILIN arrested for murder or other criminal offences. Legal aid is provided to defendants and the record shows that even for the remnants of FRETILIN, the Court of First Instance has handed down relatively light sentences. So far 79 have been sentenced to prison terms. The right of a defendant to appeal to a higher court, i.e. the High Court and subsequently to the Supreme Court, is assured by the law.

10. The use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in interrogating suspects is contrary to the State Philosophy, the Pancasila, to the basic values of the Indonesian people and the laws and regulations, particularly Law No. 14 of the year 1970 on the Basic Provisions concerning Judicial Power and the Law No.8 of the Year 1981 on Criminal Law of Procedure. The use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in the interrogation of suspects is subject to disciplinary action and prosecution. The Indonesian Government has also intensified efforts to prevent any torture and ill-treatment from occuring. In this respect, the role of the ICRC as deterrent has been valuable.

11. As a part of a constructive approach of the Indonesian Government in its effort to promote peace and security in the province of East Timor after the bloody civil war, President Suharto has since 1977 offered general amnesty to the remaining members of FRETILIN, and as a result many of them had decided to accept the offer. They have been reintegrated into society and the Indonesian Government has promoted their participation in the development of East Timor. The offer of general amnesty is still standing, despite the fact that the

remnants of FRETILIN continue to commit criminal acts such as that which occured in August last year.

12. Another humanitarian gesture from the Indonesian Government, is that since 1978 it has given access to foreign humanitarian aid coming from governments and non-governmental organizations such as ICRC, UNHCR, UNICEF and CRS as a complement to the humanitarian assistance by Indonesian Red Cross. The Indonesian Government has given access to those non-governmental organizations in as much as they are genuinely concerned with the well-being of the people, and do not belong to the category of non-governmental organizations which are more concerned with obtaining publicity and their own political objectives. ICRC has been conducting its activities in East Timor, including relief, tracing, mailing, protection, repatriation and family reunion since 1979. It suspended a part of its activities on the main island of East timor for a few months in the latter part of 1983, but by March 1984 it resumed its activities. ICRC has visited prisons in Dili and other parts of East Timor, i.e. Viqueque, Baucau and Los Palos.

13. With regard to relief assistance by the ICRC on the main island of East Timor, an agreement between the ICRC and the Indonesian Government was reached in December 1983 under which such an assistance will henceforth be provided by the Indonesian Red Cross and the Provincial Government of East Timor. This arrangement is made possible due to the increased capacity of the Indonesian Government to provide the services and the funds required and the significant progress that has been achieved in the development of the province, thus raising the self-sufficiency of the East Timorese people themselves. However, the ICRC has confirmed its readiness to continue to be at the disposal of the Indonesian Government, if and when needed, and has pledged to cooperate with the Indonesian Red Cross in relief/aid activities, specifically in the maintenance of food buffer stocks.

14. As a realization of the commitment by the Indonesian Government, by 28 October 1984 2535 persons temporarily settled in Atauro have returned to their respective place of origin on mainland East Timor i.e. Maliana, Los Palos, Baucau, Dili, Liquica, Aileu and Ainaro. The remaining 1258 persons will be returned to their respective place of origin in Viqueque, Same, Manatuto and Los Palos in the course of next year. It is pertinent to note in this connection that among the people temporarily settled in Atauro there are many who have expressed their wish to remain in Atauro. That is quite natural since Atauro Island is neither a prison nor a detention camp. Atauro constitutes one of the four sub-districts under the District of Dili with its original population and its own administration where public services such as public health facilities, schools, religious services, recreation places, public radio receivers and television sets are adequately provided.

15. The constant presence of ICRC in Atauro and periodic visits by ICRC to prisons in East Timor, recently rearranged by a new agreement with ICRC, have been and will remain to be a guarantee for the well-being of the people in those locations. It serves as a complement to the commitment of the Indonesian Government to promote the well-being and the welfare of the people of East Timor.

16. The significant progress in the development of East Timor was made possible by the favourable security situation and political stability prevailing in East Timor. The small number of ex FRETILIN members still at large no longer poses a threat to the security of East Timor. They have been reduced to groups of two or three engaged in terrorist acts and extortions with innocent and defenseless people as their victims. In an interview with Jakarta's senior newspaper editors reported in "Jakarta Post" of 24 August 1984, the Apostolic Administrator in Dili, Monsignor Ximenes Belo expressed his concern over "the brutal practices

of the remnants of FRETILIN such as burning villages, rice and corn fields and even killing their fellow East Timorese." He reiterated that he could not condone them. He said that terror tactics would not help the efforts of reconciliation among the people of East Timor. The terrorist acts however constitute no more than sporadic and isolated events, the scale and frequency of which have substantially been reduced. The Indonesian Government is continuing its efforts to put an end to such brutal acts.

17. The favourable security situation is evinced by the freedom of movements enjoyed throughout East Timor and the general atmosphere of peace felt by the people of East Timor. Recently, an official of the United States Government visited East Timor on 23 - 27 October 1984 during which he came to Dili, Liquica, Ermera, Sare, Viqueque, Los Palos and Baucau. On 26 - 30 November 1984, a group consisting of the Ambassadors of Canada and New Zealand and the Chargé d'Affaires of the United Kingdom visited East Timor. They have criss-crossed East Timor and made pre-arranged as well as surprise visits to almost all parts of East Timor, i.e. the districts of Dili (including the sub-district of Atauro) in the North, Liquica in the North-West , Bobonaro and Ermera in the West, Suai-Kovalima in the South-West, Manatuto in the center, Baucau and Viqueque in the East. They have travelled by motor vehicle and helicopter without any problem. They met and spoke not only with local government officials who are mostly native East Timorese like the Governor of East Timor as well as the chairman of local parliaments, but they have also met and spoken with ordinary East Timorese, including school children. It is important to note that their initial comments and impressions on the general situation in East Timor and the development carried out by the government and the people of East Timor are contrary to the horrifying picture painted by certain quarters and are indeed positive.

Geneva, 16 Januari 1985.